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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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1. [] there are two passenger railway stations in Yaroslavl; the Moskovskiy Station and the Vspoliye Station. All trains to Moscow, Gorkiy, and Leningrad pass through the Vspoliye Station. 50X1-HU
2. In 1951 an old wooden hut at Vspoliye was replaced by a new brick station building. The construction was not yet finished [] in September 1951. In spite of the importance of the Vspoliye Station the new building is rather modest. It is a two-story building approximately 40 to 45 meters long. The building of more modern platforms is not expected and only an additional one will be built, replacing some sidings which will be removed. At present there is only one platform.
3. At the station at Vspoliye there is an Army Food Supply and Catering Point (Voyennoe Produktoviy Punkt Stantsii Vspoliye). In addition to some civilians, the personnel at this point consists of four officers and approximately 15 enlisted men. 50X1-HUM
4. [] there is inadequate passenger service, as trains to Leningrad, Moscow, or Gorkiy are always overcrowded and sometimes passengers must wait three to four days for tickets.

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5. The through train Gorkiy-Yaroslavl-Leningrad via Bologoye runs from Yaroslavl on the odd numbered days, leaving Vspolnye at approximately 0800 hours and arriving in the Leningrad Moscow Station at approximately 0600 hours the following morning, ie., a 22-hour journey.
6. A ticket for a "hard" coach from Vspolnye to Leningrad costs 90 rubles.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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The information contained in the report below almost entirely concerns that part of Smolensk Oblast contained in the quadrangle Smolensk (54-46N, 32-03E) - Kadino (54-18N, 31-28E) - Khislavichi (54-11N, 32-09E) - Pochinok (54-24N, 50X1-HUM 32-27E)

Terrain

1. The area described has, in general, uniform geographical features. This is flat country, in certain parts slightly undulated and intersected by numerous rivers and streams, some of them flowing along the steep canyons. The most undulated part of the area extends approximately eight km west of the raion administrative center of Monastyrshchina (54-21N, 31-50E), occupying an area of approximately 150 square km between the villages Dosugovo (54-25N, 31-42E) in the north and Starokadino in the south. The hilly slopes there are steeper and the canyons deeper than in other parts of the area.

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2. East of Monastyrshchina there is flat country, in some areas marshy or even swampy (e.g., a forest between the villages Lyzy (54-14N, 31-54E) and Pritykino, where, even during the summer, deep and dangerous swamps exist). Further to the east the country is more undulated, which makes the terrain difficult for traffic, particularly in the winter and during the spring and autumn rains (e.g., the vicinity of the town Khislavichi). The marshes and swamps cover quite large areas of land south of the village and the railway station at Pochinok, which is situated on the road and the Smolensk-Bryansk railway.
3. Between Monastyrshchina and Smolensk there is flat and rather open country intersected by numerous small stream canyons.

Drainage

4. The area described is intersected by numerous small rivers and streams. The largest one in this area is the Sozh River, a tributary of the Dnepr. Some of these rivers have flat and swampy banks; in various sectors river banks are dry and sandy except during the spring and autumn periods. The Sozh River has, in general, dry banks. At the town of Khislavichi the Sozh River flows in a narrow and steep canyon. The Zhelyeznyak River at Monastyrshchina also flows in a steep canyon. The river there is approximately 30 meters wide and approximately 2.5 meters deep. The approximate width of the larger rivers in this area is 10 to 20 meters and they are 1 to 1.5 meters deep.
5. There are no spring floods in this area. The rivers only overflow in spring, but all over the area the mud in spring is indescribable. [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
[REDACTED] "mud could even cause a nervous breakdown". The same conditions are found during the autumn rains.
6. In the winter (approximately 15 November to 31 March) all rivers and streams are covered by solid ice which can support the peasants' horses and sledges. The swampy river banks and marshes are not so safe because almost invariably the ice there is much thinner than in the middle of the river. [REDACTED] crossing the rivers by motor transport [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM
[REDACTED] would be rather dangerous. The average depth of snow in the area described is approximately 20 to 30 centimeters.

Soil

7. The main type of soil is a mixture of clay and sand. There is in some areas, chiefly in the foothills, a mixture of clay and sand with a small percentage of black earth. This soil is more fertile than the clay and sand.

Vegetation and Agriculture

8. [REDACTED] during the period 1922-1929 the greatest part of the forests had been devastated, in some places almost completely. The local population needed the wood for heating, repair of houses, and other purposes. The authorities cut the wood without any planning for bridge building, railway repair work, etc. After the collectivization the remaining woods were guarded by newly appointed foresters, but nevertheless the destruction continued, though on a much smaller scale. During the last war devastation of the woods started again. At present in the described area the forests have practically ceased to exist. [REDACTED] the greater 50X1-HUM
part of the woods still marked on the maps in fact do not exist any longer and have been replaced by small groves or bushes. In many places new trees are growing but, except for some older trees, the average height of the young forest is approximately four to five meters. The largest wood in the area is near the village of Lyzy, approximately 12 km southeast of Monastyrshchina. This wood has been reduced to approximately 50 percent of its previous size and at present covers an area of approximately 12 square km.

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9. Between Monastyrshchina and Smolensk the forests have disappeared completely.
10. The trees growing in the area referred to are primarily: silver birch, alder, aspen, and a small quantity of oak. Everywhere there is a large quantity of osier, which has replaced the large trees in the formerly wooded area. This type also grows on the river banks.
11. [] the wooded or formerly wooded land and swamps cover approximately 15 percent of the whole area and that pastures, including marshy meadows, cover approximately 30 percent. Approximately 55 percent of the land is cultivated, the chief crops being rye, 30 percent; potatoes, 25 percent; and flax, 25 percent. The remaining 20 percent is devoted to oats, millet, wheat, and buckwheat. 50X1-HUM
12. Flax is cultivated in large quantities and is sent through the Monastyrshchina Raion center to the Smolensk Flax Combine.
13. Because of the lack of tractors and horses as well as the difficult soil, crops in general are not very good. Tractors in this area are considered a luxury and farmers chiefly use cows and oxen on the land and very few horses.
14. There is also a shortage of livestock, particularly pigs and sheep.
15. [] there is no large-scale agricultural industry. 50X1-HUM
16. []
- Industry
17. There is no industry in the area.
- Settlement
18. The majority of the villages in Smolensk Oblast are linear. They are generally small and consist of 30 to 50 houses. Some larger villages have 80 to 100 huts provided with a huge "Russian stove" which serves various purposes such as cooking, lighting and heating the room, and sleeping accommodation. There are no brick or stone buildings in the villages. As a rule all huts are vermin-infested. Source stated that apart from the traditional bed-bugs and fleas, lice are a real plague. Lighting is provided by kerosene lamps, the glow from the stoves, and in some places even match-wood. The latter is of very little use because of lack of the proper kind of wood. There is no electricity in the area and [] never [] any planning for the construction of a power plant. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
19. Sanitation installations do not exist. The huts are almost unfurnished, and the existing furniture is of the most primitive, home-made manufacture.
20. The small towns are also built of wood. There are only a few brick houses, as a rule occupied by the Government offices. There are no street lamps in the small towns. The towns are filthy, and the houses are vermin-infested and without any civilized sanitation system.
21. [] never [] a club or a library in the collective farms. [] somewhere in his region a mobile cinema visited some of the kolkhozy. 50X1-HUM

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Population

22. [redacted] the greater part of the population are Russians. In some places there are small groups of Byelorussians but their number is not more than two percent of the total population. Further to the west the number of Byelorussians increases but the eastern bank of the Dnepr River still belongs to the Russians. On the western bank of the Dnepr Russians are in the minority. 50X1-HUM
23. The pre-war Jewish population has almost completely disappeared. There are no new settlers from the other parts of the USSR in Smolensk Oblast.

Railways

24. The area described is situated between two railway lines, one of them running from Orsha (54-30N, 30-27E) to Shostka on the Kiev-Moscow line, the other connecting Smolensk with Bryansk. The distance between these railways is approximately 90 km. In spite of the fact that both railways, and in particular the Smolensk-Bryansk line, are important lines of communication, they do not exercise any influence on the development of the area situated between them.
25. [redacted] the locals do not need any railway [redacted] 50X1-HUM

[redacted] Local transport consists almost entirely of horse-drawn carts and very few motor vehicles. As the only places of importance and of natural gravitation for the local inhabitants are Smolensk and Roslavl, it is much easier and faster to travel there direct by a horse-drawn cart than to go first 40 or 50 km to the nearest railway station and then continue the journey by rail.

Roads

26. [redacted] there is no road system in the area described. The only decent road runs parallel or nearly so to the Smolensk-Roslavl railway. In the south there is a hard-surfaced road running from Mstislavl (34-02N, 31-42E) to the west. But these roads are of local or state importance. In fact, south of the main road Minsk-Moscow and west of the Smolensk-Roslavl road, known as the Kiev road, extends a large area where there are only more or less difficult earth tracks. 50X1-HUM
27. All these roads are of the same type and the only difference is that the more important ones are wider than the local tracks. They are good for horse-drawn carts and during the dry periods some of them could be used by motor transport, i.e., by trucks of not more than three tons' capacity and by passenger cars which were not low-slung. The maximum speed for all types of motor vehicles cannot be more than 40 km per hour; the average speed is 30 km per hour.
28. During the spring and autumn rains, as well as after one or two days of rain during the summer period, there is an incredible quantity of mud. [redacted] "the drivers there need nerves of steel" to work on such a road system. 50X1-HUM
29. In the winter the main roads are sometimes better than during the other periods of the year, provided the snow is thick enough and the road is more or less maintained.
30. All these roads receive either very little maintenance or none at all. Therefore, they are full of pot-holes and other artificial and natural obstacles. All bridges are made of wood and there are no signs indicating the maximum weight capacity. Very often it is much safer to by-pass a bridge and try to cross the river by a ford. [redacted] the weight capacity of bridges as two to three tons or even less. 50X1-HUM

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31. The main and the best track in this area is the road (trakt) connecting the town of Monastyrshchina with Smolensk. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
50 km-long route in the month of October, travelling by truck used as a bus, in approximately 4 3/4 hours, i.e., an average speed of 11 km per hour. It was rainy weather at the time and the road was slippery.

32. [redacted] during the dry summer periods cross-country traffic 50X1-HUM
is not only possible but sometimes even safer than using the existing tracks.

Landing Areas

33. [redacted] owing to the great number of streams intersecting the terrain and the muddy soil, it is very difficult to find a suitable landing ground. During the dry periods, in particular after the harvest, the cultivated land could be used for emergency landings. 50X1-HUM

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Collective Farms

1. [] the situation is almost the same everywhere. He received news of his native area in Smolensk Oblast from his cousin, a Leningrad worker, who was there in the summer of 1951. In order to help his parents, source's cousin brought with him from Leningrad a large amount of food, such as pearl barley, flour, macaroni, and fats. He said that the people in the Monastyr rayon lived almost on a starvation diet in more or less ruined, rotten huts, without furniture, clothing, or money. Since the liberation in 1943 almost nothing has been done there to help the population. In order to obtain some money, collective farmers used to sell everything they could produce in their

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kitchen gardens and personal household, such as eggs, butter, poultry, and vegetables. [REDACTED] passing through Orsha (54-30N, 30-27E), Smolensk, and other stations of the Minsk-Moscow railway, noticed a number of young peasant women and girls, extremely poorly dressed, selling milk and eggs. At many stations he saw peasants begging for bread. 50X1-HUM

2. [REDACTED] a master sergeant returned from leave [REDACTED]. He had visited his mother in a collective farm in Klintsay rayon (east of Gomel on the Gomel-Bryansk railway) and told [REDACTED] life there is almost impossible. His mother and other villagers also lived in half-ruined, rotten, wooden huts. [REDACTED] friend intended to spend his leave in building a new house for his mother, but his plans failed as he could not obtain the necessary timber and he only managed to make some repairs in order to prevent the existing hut from tumbling down. There was no electricity in the whole area but plans had been made for the construction of an electric plant. 50X1-HUM
3. All around the area people lived on a starvation diet. There were no fats, very little meat, and a great shortage of bread. The peasants used to make bread of pollard but even pollard was very difficult to obtain. [REDACTED] friend bought bread for his mother in the towns. There were no amusements whatsoever. People lived in an atmosphere of depression, fear, and rumors about war. 50X1-HUM
4. [REDACTED] in Yaroslavl in the summer of 1951 [REDACTED] life in the collective farms is hopeless. The situation there was similar to that in the Bryansk and Smolensk Oblasts. There was a lack of everything except timber in the northern part of the oblast. [REDACTED] after visiting his native region in the Kiev Oblast described life there quite briefly as a "rotten life". Everywhere there was a great shortage of manpower in the villages. 50X1-HUM
5. [REDACTED] in general, soldiers returning from leave do not talk about their experiences of happy life in the collective farms. They often refuse to answer questions, or answer angrily, "Why are you asking me? You know very well how hopeless life is there". As a rule, officers returning from leave avoid talking about conditions in the collective farms. 50X1-HUM

Town Life

6. [REDACTED] the main problems of life in the towns are housing, wages and prices, and public safety. All these problems are very acute in the large towns as well as in the medium sized and smaller settlements. 50X1-HUM

Housing

7. [REDACTED] everywhere in the USSR housing appears to be the main tragedy in the life of the town population. According to the housing regulations every one is entitled to 9 square meters of living space (zhilploshchad). In other words, a family of two is entitled to 18 square meters, and four persons should have 36 square meters. Actually, the regulations do not affect very important, powerful personalities, who occupy unlimited space; but the average citizens live in cramped conditions, with four, six, or even more families in one apartment, depending on the number of rooms. 50X1-HUM
8. In Leningrad the housing problem is extremely acute. The town is overcrowded and [REDACTED] there is no hope of any solution in the near future. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] family of four (two children of school age) occupy one room of approximately 20 square meters. The head of

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the family is a factory worker and his wife works as a cleaner. Another family of two, the husband a factory worker and the wife a shop assistant, live in one room of 16 square meters. In 1951, [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM in Leningrad, six families, totaling 18 persons, lived in eight rooms. According to Leningrad standards, this was not overcrowded. The best example of the housing situation, [REDACTED] was provided by the case of a friend 50X1-HUM his who "found a girl with living space and married her" (nashel sebe devushku s zhilploshchadyu i zhenilsya). He did not mention any of the lady's qualities except her possession of living space. People do everything possible in order to find accommodations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in general houses in Leningrad are filthy and a great percentage are vermin-infested. In many houses there is also a lack of water supply. The number of bathrooms in the town is very small and the limited number of public baths are always overcrowded. People often wait for three to four hours for admittance to a public bath. 50X1-HUM

9. In Yaroslavl and Minsk the housing situation is a little better than in Leningrad. In both places the percentage of wooden huts used as living quarters is much larger than in Leningrad. [REDACTED] brother-in-law [REDACTED] 50X1-HUM lives in Yaroslavl under exceedingly good conditions. For himself and his family, consisting of his wife and three children, he has a separate apartment of three rooms and a kitchen. He also has a kitchen garden where he used to plant vegetables and keep a couple of goats. This was liquidated in 1951 because the Party authorities reprimanded him for acquiring a fortune. In 50X1-HUM Minsk, [REDACTED] her husband live with their son in a small room in a rotten, wooden hut belonging to the Army Catering Point. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED] information on living conditions in 50X1-HUM the Leninakan area. A major, posted there in 1951 from Berlin, wrote a letter in which he described life there as hopeless. He paid 200 rubles per month for a small room and lived there in the most primitive conditions without water supply. This was confirmed by an officer posted from the Leninakan area to Berlin. He said that the Soviet officers in Germany live in "a golden cage". In Leninakan there is no drinking water and living conditions are impossible.

Wages

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11. [REDACTED] the wages of the average worker inadequate in comparison to prices. Deductions from wages are high and amount to a minimum of 20 per cent of the gross pay. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] prices for everything, including food, are too high and an average Soviet citizen spends almost all his earnings on buying food. He supplied the following estimate of wages for various categories of employment: 50X1-HUM

Monthly wages (gross)

Category of employment

200-250 rubles

Janitors, female cleaners; waitresses in the lower class of restaurants.

300-500 rubles

Armed factory watchmen; conductors on town transport; waitresses in the first class restaurants; typists; bookkeepers of lower grades, Post Office and Telegraph lower grade personnel; factory apprentices; usherettes in the theaters and motion-picture houses.

500-750 rubles

Unskilled factory workers; Fire Department personnel

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in the factories and the town service; non-technical railway personnel; cashiers and shop assistants; bookkeepers and railway cashiers; nurses; theater stagehands; senior Post Office and Telegraph officials; elementary school teachers; Uniformed Militia enlisted men.

750-1000 rubles

Bus and streetcar drivers; river tug skippers; dockers and lightermen; skilled factory workers; building trade workers; factory bookkeepers; secondary school teachers; young physicians; Militia officers.

1000-1500 rubles

Highly qualified factory workers; Militia senior officers; lower grade technicians; young engineers; railway engine drivers; physicians; junior scientists; factory foremen.

1500-2000 rubles

Higher technical staff; designers; university professors; Stakhanovites; factory foremen of grade VII.

over 2000 rubles

Highest categories of employment.

[REDACTED] various categories of technicians and scientists, apart from their monthly wages, earn bonuses which are very often much higher than their basic pay.

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12. Military personnel are, in general, better paid than civilians. The CO of the Army Food Supply and Catering Point [REDACTED]

per month. The higher officials of the paramilitary organizations such as DOSARM or DOSFLOT, primarily demobilized disabled senior officers, earn over 1000 rubles per month.

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Prices

13. Housing is comparatively inexpensive if obtained at official rates. A medium-size room in Leningrad costs 40 to 45 rubles per month, which includes electricity, water supply, and gas, if available. An average worker spends approximately five to seven per cent of his wages for housing. [REDACTED]

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14. A proper and adequate food supply containing approximately 200 grams of meat daily, milk, sugar, butter, some fats, and vegetables costs approximately 600 rubles per month. (At present, since the last reduction of prices this would cost approximately 550 rubles.) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the cost of an enlisted man's normal Army monthly ration, at normal market prices, to be from 570 to 600 rubles. Cigarettes cost 30 to 35 rubles per month.

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15. An average worker, earning 800 rubles per month, and receiving approximately 540 rubles net, is unable to feed himself properly even since the reduction of prices. But other vital things are also expensive. Owing to lack of bathrooms in the houses one must use the public baths, which cost six to eight rubles. A haircut costs five rubles.
16. Clothing is very expensive. An average man's suit costs 600 rubles or more. A pair of shoes, not the best quality, costs 145 rubles. A coat costs 800 rubles or more. A pair of boots cost 230 rubles. Men's shirts cost 40 to 65 rubles. Ladies' underwear is of extremely poor quality. A good set can be obtained from the personnel on leave from Germany and costs over 200 for a slip and pants. Silk stockings of a very low quality cost 47 rubles; cotton

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stockings cost 15 rubles. [REDACTED] in general the population in the towns, who were always poorly dressed, are, at present, not better dressed than before the war and sometimes even worse. The population of Leningrad is better dressed than in other towns. There are traditions of better quality and more taste in dressing than in other towns, and shops are better supplied. But even there the standard of dressing cannot be compared with the average standard abroad. Officers, in general, are badly dressed and look rather shabby. Military personnel serving in Germany distinguish themselves because their uniforms are of much better quality and, in comparison with the troops in the USSR, they look very smart. Enlisted men in the Soviet Union look and are, in general, very slovenly.

17. [REDACTED]

Although there are many bicycle factories and one can easily find a bicycle in a shop window, there are very few in the streets. A Soviet bicycle costs 640 rubles; a good bicycle, in other words one of German manufacture, costs 921 rubles. It is obvious that stories about peasants and workers using bicycles en masse are only very poor propaganda lies.

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18. Amusements are very expensive. An average citizen can hardly visit a theater.

Public safety

19. [REDACTED]

the general standard of public safety is lower than before the war. There is no difference between the large and small towns. He thinks that the country in the central oblasts of European Russia is much safer than the towns.

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20. In all the places [REDACTED]

recently visited there were numerous thieves, chiefly pickpockets, working efficiently and very cleverly. They are in all the streets of Leningrad, at bus and streetcar stops, and in the theaters and shops. Their favorite hunting grounds are railway stations. A considerable percentage of pickpockets are youths, many of whom are children from 10 to 12 years of age. A special group of thieves steal washing hanging in the lofts.

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21. Houses and blocks of apartments are guarded during the night by the janitors,

who check all strangers. In daylight no one checks on strangers and, as almost all inhabitants are away at their places of employment, burglars have a comparatively easy task in unattended apartments. There are many cases of collaboration between occupants and burglars. The occupants act as agents, informing burglars about such facts as the interior situation of houses, locks, and the financial position of their neighbors.

22. A very special branch of thievery is the stealing of motor vehicles. In the

Soviet Union, where privately owned cars practically do not exist, the stolen car market is very different from the market in Europe. Thieves sell stolen cars in parts to car drivers. Since the drivers are responsible for their vehicles, they prefer to buy parts out of their own pocket rather than to wait for the very slow work of repair shops with the chance of becoming a victim of official investigation, which almost always ends with punishment of the driver. As thieves and their customers act very quickly, it is almost impossible to find a stolen vehicle.

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23. [REDACTED]

not [REDACTED] many cases of street robbery in Leningrad, although they sometimes occur, primarily in the dark streets of the suburbs. [REDACTED] the number of cases of murder is not larger than in any other big town. But there sometimes are cases of extremely brutal murders, as in the affair of 1949 when the wife of an examining magistrate was murdered in her apartment in the center of Leningrad in daylight. The bandits had planned to murder her husband as an act of vengeance but killed her instead of her absent husband and left the body sitting by the table. The murder was discovered by the victim's daughter when she returned from school. On the table was found a scrap of paper in which the murderers informed the husband that they had retaliated for the arrest of one of their friends.

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SECRET/CONTROL-U.S. [REDACTED]

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24. The situation is much worse in Yaroslavl, where many cases of robbery and murder occurred during 1950 and 1951. [REDACTED] organized groups of gangsters operate in the town. There were also many cases of robbery of the various stores and shops. In 1951 a female cashier was murdered in a store raided by the gangsters. Public parks, dark streets, and cemeteries are very dangerous and everybody avoids walking alone after dark. The counter-action of the Militia is, in general, very inefficient and inadequate, and very often the Militia collaborates with the burglars and robbers. 50X1-HUM

Religion

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25. [REDACTED] in spite of the official freedom of faith, there are various restrictions concerning attendance at church services. Party members and candidates and members of the Komsomol are not allowed to attend religious services. Armed Forces personnel as well as State Security personnel are not allowed to visit churches in uniform. In the center of Leningrad two churches are open, one of them the Greek Church near the Oktyabrskaya Station. In Yaroslavl one church is open. There are always large congregations and a considerable number of youths of both sexes attend the church services.

Anti-Semitism

50X1-HUM

26. [REDACTED] in Leningrad in 1951 [REDACTED] a large-scale purge of Jews was carried out in all commercial enterprises of the city. A number of Jews occupying leading positions were dismissed and transferred to minor jobs in branches other than commerce. A number of them were sent from Leningrad to smaller towns. There were also some cases of Jews being beaten up. [REDACTED] one case [REDACTED] Russian workers beat up a Jew who used the Russian Christian name of Vladimir, which is very popular among the Russian Jews. The workers accused him of concealing his Jewish descent and using a Russian name. [REDACTED] even the Party members became anti-Semitic and [REDACTED] the population supports the Government in its anti-Semitic activities. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM

Morale and Morals

50X1-HUM

27. [REDACTED] the atmosphere in which people live in the Soviet Union is full of distrust and depression. He said that he does not know how the upper class lives; but the average citizens, peasants, workers, officials, officers, and others distrust everyone and are themselves distrusted by their superiors. People do not like to talk too much and avoid discussing any vital problem. Even members of a family prefer not to talk rather than risk involving themselves in unnecessary or dangerous discussions. The only subjects which Soviet citizens discuss with pleasure are prices and how many useful things they are unable to obtain. Food, clothing, and housing are also subjects for discussion.

28. Wherever [REDACTED] the atmosphere of distrust, depression and fear predominated. 50X1-HUM

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29.

30.

The people did not talk about local affairs because they were afraid to talk too much. Almost next door [redacted] was an ammunition factory. Source learned [redacted] there is a secret factory". 50X1-HUM

31.

[redacted] in Minsk, [redacted] the story was exactly the same. Her family told him about their poverty, lack of furniture, clothing, and 50X1-HUM money, but almost nothing about the life there [redacted]

32.

[redacted] Thirty-four years of Party training gave very good results. An average Soviet subject is constantly scared of everyone and of everything. He does not ask questions and avoids answering them.

33.

[redacted] people in the Soviet Union are overworked and tired. The 50X1-HUM are tired physically and mentally. In theory they work only for eight hours, but in practice the majority look for additional jobs in order to supplement their income. Many of them work on Sundays or after working hours, at such jobs as re-decorating houses, painting walls, or as carpenters and mechanics.

34.

[redacted] an average Soviet citizen does not read either books or 50X1-HUM newspapers or only very few. In [redacted] apartment in Leningrad only two out of the 18 people read newspapers and only one person had a private library 50X1-HUM of about twenty books. This was not an exception. On the contrary, other houses were even worse. Collective farmers do not read and have no books in their homes. When he marched through Polish territory in 1944-1945, [redacted] noticed with astonishment that there were some books in almost every peasant house. Before the war, in Leningrad a great number of people read books or newspapers in streetcars or buses. At present, they do not read on the 50X1-HUM journey to and from their work.

35.

The atmosphere in family life is, in general, very unpleasant and unfriendly. [redacted] described the unhappiness of the Soviet family life in one sentence: 50X1-HUM

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"Varod zhivet nedruzhelyubno" (People live unfriendly). Husband, wife, and children disturb each other because they are crowded into one filthy, poorly furnished room, where they think and talk about troubles in the office or in the factory, are tired and short of money, and use bad language.

maybe in the upper class it is better because those people are more cultured and have fewer troubles, but in his class the family life consists of distrust, unfriendliness or hostility, and abuse. Life in the crowded rooms and lack of moral background sometimes cause very grave consequences.

an example

a Party official lived in one small room with his wife, who was a secretary, in an office, and their two children, a boy of 16 and a girl of 15. When the parents were at work the children used to stay at home after school. The girl became pregnant and it was discovered that the father-to-be was her own brother. The girl was sent to a kolkhoz, where she gave birth to a child. It was undoubtedly a very peculiar case. It was characteristic of the Soviet mentality, however, that there were no reactions whatsoever. Neither parents nor neighbors, teachers nor Government authorities, paid any attention to the matter. Everybody in the house and in the vicinity knew about it. Obviously the Militia and the MGB were duly informed. Neighbors,

considered this just an interesting case (interest sluchay). As nobody was killed and a healthy child was born, everything was in perfect order. People were only very interested to know how the child would be registered. Source pointed out that this particular family was a happy one. They never quarrelled or used bad language and they lived kulturno (in a cultured manner).

36. A number of youths, even those of good families by Soviet standard, such as children of Party officials, Army officers, and technicians, are connected with the underworld or spend their time after school hours organizing gangs of hooligans. a 15-year-old boy, belonged to a gang of pickpockets and hooligans. He is the son of a senior Army officer and was properly brought up at home. The Komsomol members took part in khuliganka (sic; khuliganstvo) and were no better than the other boys.

37. alcohol is a very important factor in life in the Soviet Union. vodka, as in the past, is a medicine for all the troubles and difficulties in the life of a Soviet citizen. In spite of the fact that vodka is very expensive, almost everyone drinks, and on every occasion. A cheerful invitation "let us have a hundred grams" (of vodka) became a sort of national slogan. Youth of both sexes begin to indulge in alcohol much too early and those hundred grams of vodka are one of the main reasons for hooliganism and mass demoralization of the young generation.

Cleanliness

38. There is one more point which exercises a great influence on the morale and life of the Soviet Union, and that is lack of cleanliness. He stated that Russia was never a clean country and very little has been done during the last thirty years to teach the people to be clean. He pointed out that, despite all the achievements of Soviet industry, undoubtedly very great, such as the construction of canals, railways, and factories, an average Soviet subject has gained very little or nothing at all. One of the main needs of the Russians was for facilities for cleanliness and the inculcation of habits of cleanliness.
39. The peasants' living standard is far worse than previously. Peasants are filthy and live in filthy, rotten huts. there is no pleasure in spending a leave at home in the villages. It is, rather, a hard duty, even a nightmare. In particular, soldiers who serve in Germany and in other foreign countries, in many cases, stay at home only as long as necessary or spend their whole leave in a town. Western Russia is much less civilized than other parts of the USSR and undoubtedly

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less civilized than it was before collectivization. There are no roads, no industry, no properly built houses, no libraries, clubs, or amusements. 50X1-HUM
[REDACTED] the same conditions

exist in the Yaroslavl Oblast, which is an industrial area. [REDACTED] Leningrad is an exception, and the most civilized town in the Soviet Union. However, almost everything in Leningrad was there before 1917. The people 50X1-HUM of Leningrad are also much more civilized than in other towns. But even in Leningrad, a town of approximately 4,000,000 population, there are many dark, unpaved, or very badly paved streets, especially in the outskirts. There is very little gas for cooking and a great shortage of bathrooms in the blocks of apartments. A considerable percentage of houses is vermin-infested and, in general, apartments are filthy.

40. In Yaroslavl the situation is much worse. Electric street lighting exists only on the main street, while other streets are completely dark. A few main streets are macadamized but the surfaces are of very poor quality. A number of streets are unpaved. Streets, shops, theaters, houses, and restaurants are filthy. People in the streets look shabby and filthy. Housing is much worse than in Leningrad. The situation is the same or a little worse in Minsk.

41. [REDACTED] the passenger trains in the USSR, with the exception of 50X1-HUM the Moscow-Leningrad and Moscow-Brest through trains, are filthy and full of dust and that many coaches are vermin-infested (bedbugs in the soft 50X1-HUM coaches) and full of fleas. The passengers are more responsible for this than the railway authorities. Wash basins in the passenger coaches are often full of cigarette ends and other even worse things. In general [REDACTED] the lack of cleanliness can be observed everywhere.

42. [REDACTED]

SECRET/CONTROL-O.S. [REDACTED]

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